

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction between the following designated inventions.

1. Group I - claims 22 - 27, 41, 42, 46 - 48 and 50 - 52 drawn to a coating comprising, classified in class 106, subclass 162.71;
2. Group II - claims 28 - 32, 43 and 44 drawn to a coating consisting essentially of, classified in class 106, subclass 208.1; and
3. Group III - claims 33 - 37, 45 and 49 drawn to a coating classified in class 106, subclass 208.1.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the invention denominated as Group 1 (claims 22 - 27, 41, 42, 46 - 48 and 50 - 52). Applicants reserve the right to file further continuation and/or divisional applications on the non-elected subject matter of Groups II and III. Non-elected claims 28 - 40, 43 - 45 and 49 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 22 - 27, 41, 42, 46 - 48 and 50 - 58 are pending. Claims 53 - 58, added by this amendment, incorporate all the limitations of independent claim 22.

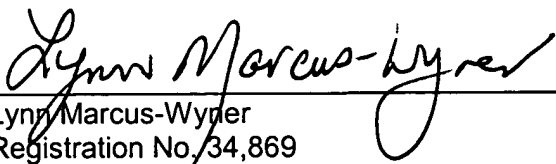
Claim 53 further defines the modified starch as including a hydroxypropyl substitution. Support may be found at least at page 4, line 36 of the specification. Claims 54, 55 and 56 further defined the plasticizer as a sugar alcohol, polyethylene glycol or a polyol and more specifically as a glycerol or sorbitol sugar alcohol. Support is found at least at page 5, first paragraph of the specification.

Claim 57 recites that the modified starch and the modified cellulose are provided in equal parts, and support may be found at page 4, lines 5 - 6 of the specification. Claim 58 further limits the components of the coating as claimed in claim 22. Support may be found at page 4, line 36; page 5, first paragraph and page 5, lines 9 - 12 of the specification.

Applicants respectfully assert the pending claims 22 - 27, 41, 42, 46 - 48 and 50 - 58 are in form for allowance, and allowance of the application is kindly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lynn Marcus-Wyner
Registration No. 34,869
Attorney for Applicants

Genencor International, Inc.
925 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1013
Tel: 650-846-7620
Fax: 650-845-6504